

ALPENA ARCTUS SUPPLEMENT

LEFT THE G. O. P.

John Davis, of Detroit, a life long Republican, writes a communication to the Detroit Free Press, giving his reasons for deserting the Republican party, in the following forcible language:

With a view to influencing some young men to decide their politics not by social afflictions, but upon scientific and patriotic principles, the writer wishes to present some reasons why he feels it his duty to support the Democratic rather than the Republican party. He may not expect to influence any like the old parishoner who, when in behalf of uniformity his pastor asked him whether he preferred to keep Saturday night sacred or Sunday night, replied: "Well, I am not strenuous, but I have always kept Saturday night, and always shall." It is hard for people to sever ties under which they have grown up. It is not easy to break an idol. But many there have been who, under the blind persistence of their party in a wrong policy, have been forced to break the ties. The writer, born a Whig, raised a Republican, by enlistment and service of three years a soldier, has seen with regret his party led astray by false doctrines.

An anti-slavery platform alone was the birthright of the Republican party. In its first campaign, that of 1856, it became most aggressive, gathered into its folds the northern Whigs, many Democrats, the Free Soilers and Abolitionists. It had, as history proved, a mission to perform, and it commanded the zeal of most heroic standard bearers, as does ever a high moral aim. It was comprised mostly of the people of the manufacturing states. The industry of the slave states was almost wholly that of agriculture. It was natural that the Republican party should in its second campaign adopt the protective idea of a tariff as opposed to the free trade policy which was to the interest of the agricultural slave states. Little account, however, was paid to that plank, for the slavery question absorbed the entire attention of the people. Upon the election of Lincoln and the following declaration of secession by the southern states the Republican party became the guardians and preservers of the union. The cause was glorious, the results humane and beneficent even in advance of the hopes of its adherents in the inception of its life. The expense of the pending war demanded an increase of revenue and the tariff schedule was raised, taxes being also levied by a stamp system upon some of the industries and articles of the country. The unfriendliness to the north of the English, especially the tradespeople, together with the action of France in meddling with Mexico while our country was distracted with war, gave cause for the growth of the protective policy by an appeal to the patriotism of the people to become independent of other nations. But with peace once more installed within our borders and with the return of the people to peaceful vocations, the policy of traders rather than the country's needs soon became the cause of appeal for a protective tariff. Under the garb of patriotism, selfish interests gained the control of the policy of the Republican party. From a highly moral platform it descended to a mercenary one, and that in behalf of one class of citizens against another and much more numerous class. Under the plea of supporting "infant industries," "giving high wages," "building up consumers for our own national products," the rank and file were kept in line. Its argumentative appeals soon lapsed to tirades of abuse and sarcasm, its statesmanship to demagogism. Its Lincoln, Sumner, Chase, Seward, Grant, retrograded to Blaine, Reed, McKinley, et cetera. Patriotism became "jingoism." Logic was usurped by "bunkum." Under a revolt of some of its leading thinkers against such subversion of principle the demagogue whip cracked out the name of "mugwump," and many of

the bright lights who were in the forefront of the party in its days of glory were read out of the party. Many good men remained, trying to believe that a party which had done such noble work in the past must still be or become the party of progress. But, alas! the only platform upon which the Republican party retains its adherents is the protective policy. It has no other battle cry upon which its office-speakers can muster its ranks. We invite our Republican friends to read over carefully and calmly the speeches of their politicians and see in them how little there is of argument, how much of abuse, how much of prating and little following of the accomplishments of truer standard-bearers of the generation which has passed on.

They sum up the blessings which providence has bestowed upon the land and say "we did it." It reminds me of the old man crawling out of the loft after his wife had killed the bear and telling the neighbors "Me and Betty, we killed the bear." Just for an illustration let me cite the late Mr. Blaine's claim that the Republican party took the country with \$1,000,000,000 of wealth and increased it to \$44,000,000,000. Alas for the claim! In another speech, for a different purpose, he spoke of England's gain in wealth, and upon looking over the figures it transpires that England while gaining 45 per cent in population increased her wealth per head 244 per cent. While under the protective policy of the Republican party the United States, while gaining 60 per cent in population, increased her wealth per head only 160 per cent. That is a fair illustration of the assumption of the Republican politician. Having no statistics to base arguments upon, he rarely stoops to array them, and when he does he assumes that they will be swallowed as arguments for the old machine.

When a politician tells you the bad times are occasioned by the Democratic government, and you ask him why he thinks so, he will answer, after the manner but not the wisdom of the Yankee, "What else makes them?" Now, instead of being staggered by such weak insinuations, go and study the census statisticians and learn that it is for less than 8 per cent of the people of the United States that protection is invoked. Just think over the industries of this country and look over the tariff schedules. Lawyers, doctors, all professional and personal service men, traders, sailors, railroad companies, builders of every kind, the majority of mechanical industries, nearly all agricultural pursuits—none of these are protected or ask to be. Ninety-two per cent of the people taxed to profit 8 per cent. And of that 8 per cent you are asked to protect, do you think the majority, who are the workers, are protected? Far from it. The statistics will again show that in the industries which are protected the average wages are lower than in those unprotected. And again, the articles manufactured by that 8 per cent are in many cases the raw materials of other manufacturers, thus prohibiting them from engaging in the export of their products. How can a clothing manufacturer export clothing when the wool and woolsens from being taxed cost more than the raw stock of his foreign competitor? How can a shoe manufacturer expect shoes made of skins which are taxed sixty cents apiece, when his English competitor has no such added cost?

It is for such reasons, thus suggested, carried out into many lines, that our exports of manufactured goods are so small. Only 12½ per cent of our exports are manufactured goods; the other 87½ per cent being natural products. And our shipping that carries these exports has decreased to one-fifth its former capacity, while the population has doubled. So one interest suffers that another may be protected, though that very protection in the end, through the scramble for gain, is bound to work hindrance rather than help to the very interest for which it is invoked.

The American people are quick and

intelligent, and with the bounties of nature in our land and climate are capable of leading the world in manufactures and commerce when not handicapped by having its material taxed, its inventive power stunted by being pampered, and its government corrupted by the monopolistic minority.

The trouble with the times is not free trade, nor is it currency alone; but also speculation, skin games, gambling, making money by watering stocks, instead of devoting the ability engaged in such deals to enterprises that would be a blessing rather than a curse to others. Remember that protection sows discord, favors a few at the cost of many, and thus subverts the law of equality.

Press Opinions.

Spencer O. Fisher is putting up a fight for the governorship that is providing a veritable eye-opener to the Republican calamityites.—Lansing Journal.

As the Gazette anticipated, Spencer O. Fisher is making a red-hot campaign. He is an energetic, brainy and magnetic man, and is making friends wherever he goes.—Kalamazoo Gazette.

The state campaign is now far enough advanced to make it plain that in selecting Spencer O. Fisher to head the state ticket, the Democrats made no mistake in picking out their candidate for the high office of governor.—Muskegon News.

In his address at the Dowagiac union fair, Hon. Spencer O. Fisher again demonstrated his gifts as a campaigner. He talks to the people as his friends and neighbors, and with conversational frankness gives them the views which he holds and which he asks them to support. His sincerity is his strength, and the more audiences he can address the more votes he will receive.—Detroit Free Press.

Spencer O. Fisher has twice served the people in congress and the record he made was without a flaw. He is a Democrat all the time, and when as a manufacturer, according to Republican theory, his business would be assailed and injured by the legislation he voted for, he simply said, let'er assail, or to that effect. He wasn't there voting for himself, but in the interest of the people who sent him. No man, no combination, no power on earth can swerve Spencer O. Fisher from the path he believes to be right.—Midland Sun.

Falsehoods.

The Republicans never tire of claiming that the country had reached the acme of prosperity in 1892, previous to the election of Cleveland, and it was then the trouble commenced.—Appleton's cyclopaedia for 1891, page 842, shows that for ten years prior to 1890 the condition of the country was growing worse. While population increased only 24.8 per cent, the number of criminals in state prisons increased 29 per cent, the number in county jails increased 54 per cent and those in insane asylums increased 73.5 per cent. The number of failures increased from 6,738 in '82 to 10,907 in '90. That year the McKinley law was passed and the number of failures immediately increased to 12,273 in '91 while in '92 they had reached the tremendous total 15,560. Strikes and lockouts also increase as soon as the McKinley bill was passed, and the summer before Cleveland was

elected the entire military force of three states was in the field at the same time suppressing labor troubles.

It was the reduction of wages and the hard times that followed the McKinley law that caused the overwhelming defeat of the Republican party in '90 and '92, especially in the mining districts. Wheat was lower on the first day of Nov. '92 than it had been for over 30 years, and wages were lower than they had been since the war. Wool had fallen in price every year, and was lower than it had been since Burrows was old enough to talk. The market reports of any file of newspapers will prove that these are facts.—Cheboygan Democrat.

The Income Tax.

The fifty-third congress provided by law that "There should be assessed, levied, collected, and paid annually upon the gains, profits and income received in the preceding calendar year by every citizen of the United States, whether residing at home or abroad, and every person residing therein, whether said gains, profits or income be derived from any kind of property, rents, interest, dividends, or salaries, or from any profession, trade, employment, or vocation carried on in the United States or elsewhere, or from any other source whatever, a tax of two per centum on the amount so derived over and above four thousand dollars, and a like tax shall be levied, collected and paid annually upon the gains, profits, and income from all property owned and of every business, trade or profession carried on in the United States by persons residing without the United States."

Every Michigan Democratic congressman voted for this just law!

Every Michigan Republican congressman voted against it.

He is Called Down.

That staunch Republican newspaper, the Marquette Mining Journal, has enough decency to admit the truth when it effects business interests even if it does convict a Republican congressman of perfidious work. Sam Stephenson, congressman from the upper peninsula, has been howling calamity with a vim worthy of McKinley, and his assertions that the new tariff law is ruining his portion of the state are thus rebuked by The Mining Journal:

Mr. Stephenson's statements do not accord with the facts. There are more men employed in the mines up here now than there were a year ago, and the demand for men to work in the woods is so great that loggers are finding some difficulty in getting as many as they have work for, notwithstanding they are paying about the same wages they did years ago, before lumber was put on the free list. As a "calamity howler" Mr. Stephenson is a success, but he should not allow his eagerness to paint things in the darkest colors to influence him to stray too far from the truth.

When Julius Caesar Burrows went to Holland to deliver a speech the other night, he found a small audience awaiting him. As he had in former campaigns packed the hall, he inquired the reason why so few people had turned out to hear him. The managers told him that all the local factories were running nights and the men couldn't get away, and in spite of this Burrows began to howl calamity into the ears of the few people who were present. But that's what he's paid for doing.

McKinley for President.

This trotting of William McKinley around the political track must mean something like McKinley for President in 1896. It is a great show and McKinley is its director. There is a saying that there is nothing new under the sun, and this exhibition of the Napoleon of Carnegie and sugar trust tariffs is but a new form of a ceremonial practiced by the Aztecs of Mexico. Ever so often they chose one of their number to represent a god and showed him the highest possible honors, but after a while they slew him. It will be so with McKinley.

He may be shown all possible honors now until his head becomes swelled to the greatest possible dimensions, when they will let him down into his political grave. Democrats can desire nothing better than that he should be nominated as the Republican presidential candidate. The people have been educated on the tariff question and they are not McKinleyites.—Muskegon News.

Free Silver.

The Democratic state platform, adopted at Grand Rapids, June 28, 1894, says "We declare in favor of the free, unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio that will permit the debtors to pay their debts upon the same basis on which they were contracted. We demand that henceforth the issuing of all circulating medium be made under the acts of congress, through the national treasury, in such amounts as the business wants of the country may require, and it shall be full legal tender."

Spencer O. Fisher declares his unequivocal advocacy of free coinage at 16 to 1.

In the Republican state convention a free silver resolution was proposed and was overwhelmingly defeated.

John T. Rich is known as a gold standard man.

The wail of the political calamity howler is being drowned by the din of reviving industry. Let the citizens of Pontiac and Oakland county investigate for themselves. Let them go to the factories of C. V. Taylor, R. D. Scott & Co., the Pontiac Buggy Co., Stewart & Co.,—men who are the bone and sinew of Pontiac's growth and prosperity, men who are in business not for political buncomb but for profit, and ask them what is the condition of their business since the Wilson bill made iron and lumber free. They will tell you in every case that their factories were never so prosperous as now, and that the present time, which is usually a dull season, finds them rushed with orders as in no preceding year.—Pontiac Post.

Crump will be kept at home hereafter. The Republican managers decided on his return from the northern counties that he lost votes every time he appeared in public, and he will not be allowed to go out again. And he will not be allowed to see any more newspaper correspondents when Tip or McDuff are not near to prompt him what to say.—Midland Sun.

Three leading state officials removed for gross neglect of duty, the state expenditures increased by several hundred thousand dollars—these are among the chief results of two years of "honest Republican rule" in Michigan.